

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 716

By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Remembering WWII and the Courter family, the organizers of the living history event.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to recognize those historical reenactments that endeavor to honor our country's past while paying homage to the good men and women of our nation who fought so valiantly to preserve the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, Remembering WWII in Linden, Tennessee, is a living history event created by the Courter family, which began as an intimate commemorative gathering in 2012 to honor the veterans of Linden and has grown into a full-fledged community event and reenactment that honors the members of our nation's Greatest Generation; and

WHEREAS, Remembering WWII is the only World War II reenactment event that occurs in a town setting; the 2016 event will feature two World War II reenactments, an army encampment, live big band music, a 1940s canteen, vintage vehicles, a swap meet, and more; and

WHEREAS, most importantly, attendees will have a rare opportunity to hear World War II veterans share their stories, speak with them, have a photo signed, and express their appreciation in person; and

WHEREAS, while Remembering WWII is the brainchild of the Courter family, the event would not be possible without the support of the Town of Linden and its citizens and many invaluable volunteers from Hickman and Lewis counties, as well as a number of individuals from outside of the State of Tennessee, who have assisted and encouraged the Courters as they have realized their dream of presenting one of the finest living history events in the country; and

WHEREAS, in January 2016, Remembering WWII garnered a number of accolades and awards at the Southern Festival and Events Association (SFEA) Kaleidoscope Awards, including three gold awards for Best Digital Media, Best Creative Idea, and Best Volunteer; one silver award for Best Festival under \$75,000; and one bronze award for Best Event Program; and

WHEREAS, the SFEA Kaleidoscope Awards acknowledge the highest level of achievement in the festival and event industry throughout the southeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, the Courters entered the SFEA contest at the suggestion of the late Mayor Jim Azbill, who was one of their staunchest supporters and who tragically died before the results of the contest were announced; and

WHEREAS, Remembering WWII 2016: Living History, Education, and Honor will be an unforgettable day of honoring our country's heroes, connecting personally with our past, and experiencing a taste of life in the 1940s; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the vision and dedication of the Courter family, Remembering WWII is an amazing hands-on living history experience for the whole family; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Courter family are: Anthony, Michelle, Daniel, Jessica, Rebekah, Aaron (and Mallory), Josiah, Esther, Joshua, Caleb, Lincoln, Elijah, Anna, and Nathan; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to acknowledge Remembering WWII and the Courter family for their commitment to honoring our nation's past as they seek to record the stories of the veterans of World War II who sacrificed their own personal safety to ensure the life and liberty of their fellow Americans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the 2016 Remembering WWII event, as we commend the Courter family for their perseverance and resolve in presenting one of the Southeast's greatest historical reenactments, an endeavor indeed most worthy of our approbation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.